MARINE CORPS
WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

ROVER
fact sheet

ROVER will provide the Forward Air Controller (FAC) and the artillery Forward Observer (FO) the ability to view real time video from several platforms, including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and Litening Pod equipped aircraft.

Background: FACs and FOs are responsible for ensuring safe and accurate fires on target. Often, the terrain and hostile fires preclude the FAC or FO from having a clear view of a potential target area. They are currently dependent on their best estimate of the location or still-imagery that is often outdated by the time the mission is required. There is the potential that the enemy has moved or that friendly forces or non-combatants have entered the target area. In complex terrain, such as urban environments, particular buildings or streets are difficult to differentiate — leading to inefficient or inaccurate use of fires. Rover's video imaging capability provides the FAC/FO with a real-time visual capability, which allows for pinpoint accuracy and pilot/observer target concurrence.

Description:

1. Video imaging software and firmware loaded onto a lightweight, ruggedized, hand-held computer with a moving map capability, laser range finder interface, and appropriate tactical radios.

2. Lightweight man-packable video imaging receiver.

3. Interface with the StrikeLink target handoff system to facilitate rapid, digital target prosecution planning and execution.

Deliverable Product: Rover will provide a lightweight, real-time video imaging capability for FACs and FOs for use in Distributed Operations Experimentation beginning in the 4th Quarter of FY05.

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